

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

New Members . MFA welcomes two new member organizations:

The Pine River Association was organized in 1973 to “protect and improve the Pine River and its environs and the property and mutual interests of ... insure the maintenance of the Pine River area in the wild, natural state; to control and eliminate pollution, litter, and unlawful behavior ... to cooperate with ... law enforcement agencies for these purposes; to educate its members and other persons; to participate in the planning and performance of conservation practices; and to engage in such other activities as the membership shall determine.” They refer to themselves as “a small organization that does a lot!” They are active in such projects as streambank stabilization and woody debris management. We are pleased to welcome PRA as a member of Michigan Forest Association.

www.pineriverassociation.org

Dwight Lydell Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America. Formed “to conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soil, forest, water and other natural resources of the United States... and wholesome utilization.” www.michiganikes.org/styled/home.html

Both of these organizations joined MFA as reciprocal members – we will swap publications and communications, but no money changes hands. We will then scan their publications for tidbits you might be interested in and will pass them along through this newsletter.

Meanwhile, you are encouraged to visit their websites for more thorough and timely information.

Teacher Workshop Date Set for 2013. MFA will conduct another workshop on sustainable forestry for school teachers next summer. Dates will be July 29 to August 2. Location will be the R.A.MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. Tell your favorite teacher to mark her calendar; watch for more information.

Wildlife News

Moose Transfer Nitrogen. Research on Isle Royale by Michigan Tech scientists and others has shown that significant amounts of nitrogen are transferred to terrestrial ecosystems from aquatic ones when moose eat aquatic plants, then defecate on land.

redOrbit; Your Week in Trees

Bears are Pretty Smart, on Average. Researcher Jennifer Vonk, of Oakland University in Rochester, MI, has tested captive black bears for image recognition – ultimately a measure of intelligence. She found that at least some bears could identify animals vs. non-animals in pictures, when offered a reward for correct answers. The tests required mastery of some pretty complex concepts, suggesting that these guys are really pretty smart.

Science News

Forest Health

New York City Working to Eradicate Asian Longhorned Beetle. The US Department of Agriculture has felled over 6,000 trees in New York City and is one year away from declaring the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) eradicated. New Jersey and Staten Island are on track for eradication in 2014; Brooklyn, Queens and parts of Long Island are a few years off. Meanwhile, the beetle has been found in southern Ohio. So far, the ALB has been found mostly in urban situations.

The e-forester

Is it or Isn't it? Canadian researchers are spending a good deal of time and effort on trying to determine whether certain trees are butternut or butternut hybrids. Who cares, you say? Well, butternut has been hit by a canker disease that seems to be erasing it from the landscape. Butternut is classified as endangered in Ontario, so it is protected. Butternut readily crosses with Japanese walnut, which has been planted within the range of butternut, has commonly been planted in the USA and Canada for nut production. The hybrids are not protected. Genetic work on butternut and related hybrids (which we have reported on) carried out at Purdue University has provided some basis on which to base judgement on a tree's genetic purity. Unfortunately, however, there seem to be differences between American and Canadian hybrids. The hope is that healthy trees with no signs of hybridity can be identified and then crossed to develop a hardy strain of butternut that can be used to repopulate the natural range of butternut.

Ontario Forest Research Institute

Sniffing for Ash Borers. While most of Michigan has by now been attacked by the emerald ash borer (EAB), other states have not yet been hit. It seems that it may take a couple of years (or more) for symptoms to show up after the EAB first arrives. How would one go about finding those early infestations? How about an EAB-sniffing dog? The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has trained a Labrador Retriever to do just that. "Lily" is evidently pretty good at finding the bugs. Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

Alternative Energy

Wood Isn't "Green" enough. The state of Massachusetts gives incentives to wind and solar energy projects, but has ruled that wood energy is not eligible for these breaks. The e-forester

Wooden Wind Turbine Towers? The German company TimberTower GmbH has built a 100 – meter high tower of wood, saving about 300 tons of sheet steel that would be used in the typical towers. The use of wood saves considerable energy in the manufacturing process and the wood acts as a carbon sink. Check it out at <http://www.timbertower.de/#&panel1-2>. The e-forester

Safety

Deer season is coming. Be sure to wear your orange. Don't climb a tree with a loaded rifle. Don't take any "sound shots". Don't do anything stupid.

Markets

Urban Sawmills? CitiLog, a Pittstown, NJ company, operates a sawmill near New Jersey's largest city, using trees removed from parks, yards and other urban locations. They produce flooring, furniture and other products. Why not? The e-forester

Minnesota Plants Close. Two major wood-using plants closed in Minnesota in August – the Verso paper mill in Sartell and the Georgia-Pacific hardboard plant in Duluth. That makes six Minnesota plants that have closed in the last 5 years. The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Ancient Microbes Discovered. Geomicrobiologist Hans Roy, of Aarhus University in Denmark, discovered microbes in an 86-million-year-old sediment core from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Metabolizing at a rate one two-millionth that of human cells, they are "hanging on in a state of sustained starvation", Roy says. He speculates such creatures may be more common than we think, but their activity is masked by that of more active organisms. Discover magazine

New Planning Tool for Landowners. The American Forest Foundation has launched a web site called MyLandPlan.org to help forest landowners with land management decisions. Check it out at MyLandPlan.org. Your Week in Trees

Wildlife Management Information Available. A publication on managing land for wildlife is available from the Department of Natural Resources at www.michigan.gov/landownersguide. The guide gives advice on managing woodlands, grasslands, old fields, back yards and more. DNR listserve

Chunk of Redwood Found in 50Million-Year-Old Rock. Diamond hunters in Canada's Northwest Territories were surprised to find a chunk of redwood encased in rocks aged at 50 million years. <http://www.livescience.com/23374-fossil-forest-redwood-diamond-mine.html> Your Week in Trees

Ginseng Poaching Increasing. Wild ginseng roots, highly prized for their medicinal value, are increasingly becoming a target for poachers. Cases are reported in Wisconsin and Ohio in which plants are stolen in total disregard for the season or future propagation of the species. One Ohio landowner is accused of murder in an alleged poaching case. Your Week in Trees.

Learn While You Sleep. Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel suggests we can learn totally new information while sound asleep. Pleasant vs. disgusting odors were wafted in front of sleeping subjects while certain sounds were played. Sleepers soon learned to breathe more deeply when they heard the sound paired with the pleasant aroma; more shallowly when they heard the tones paired with the unpleasant smells. Okay, it's not higher math – yet, but it's a start. Science News

Watch for *Seeking the Greatest Good*. A new film produced for PBS by public TV station WVIA of Scranton, PA traces the life of Gifford Pinchot, founder of the Society of American Foresters and first chief of the US Forest Service. The full name of the movie is *Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot*. Forest Timeline